AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A powder core comprising: a plurality of composite magnetic particles bonded to each other;

wherein: each of said plurality of composite magnetic particles includes: a metal magnetic particle; an insulative lower layer coating surrounding a surface of said metal magnetic particle; an upper layer coating surrounding said lower layer coating and containing silicon; and dispersed particles containing a metal oxide compound and disposed in said upper layer coating and/or said lower layer coating; and

a mean particle diameter R of said dispersed particles meets a condition $10\ nm < R \leq 2T$, where T is an average thickness of a coating formed from said lower layer coating and said upper layer coating.

Claim 2 (Original): A powder core according to claim 1 wherein said lower layer coating includes at least one compound selected from a group consisting of a phosphorous compound, a silicon compound, a zirconium compound, and an aluminum compound.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A powder core according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein said dispersed particles includes at least one oxide selected from a group consisting of silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, and titanium oxide.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A powder core according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 ~~through claim 3~~ wherein said lower layer coating has an average thickness of at least 10 nm and no more than 1 micron.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A powder core according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 ~~through claim 4~~

wherein said upper layer coating has an average thickness of at least 10 nm and no more than 1 micron.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method for making a powder core according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 ~~through claim 5~~ comprising:

a step for forming a shaped body by shaping said plurality of metal magnetic particles; and

a step for heat treating said shaped body at a temperature of at least 500 deg C and less than 800 deg C.